

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please delete in the specification, paragraph 23 on page 7, and replace it with the following amended paragraph:

--[0023] The polymeric binder of the composite blend preferably is a water-soluble thermoplastic binder having high thermal stability. Water-soluble polymers such as ~~polyvinylpyrrolinone~~ polyvinylpyrrolidone, which is also sometimes referred to as polyvinylpyrrolidinone, (PVP) and blends or copolymers thereof can be used as the thermoplastic binder. Preferably the binder is PVP. PVP has a relatively high glass transition temperature (T<sub>g</sub>). For example, the glass transition temperature of PEO is about 65°C, whereas the glass transition temperature of PVP is about 190°C. The higher T<sub>g</sub> increases the resistance of the dried tooling material towards slumping at higher curing temperatures, which could otherwise cause dimensional inaccuracies in the cured composite part. It thus is possible to use the PVP-based tooling materials in the fabrication of a wide range of composite parts.--